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COUNTRY Austria/South Tyrol

SUBJECT Austro-Italian Socialist Conference in

Innsbruck

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DIST. 3 October 1947

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SUPPLEMENT

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- The frequently postponed conference between Italian and Austrian Socialists, which was originally to be held in Bolzano, finally took place in Imsbruck on 14 September 1947. On the Italian side only the Nemni group was represented; Luzzatto he ded the delegation. The Austrians were represented by three Socialist leaders from Vienna, including Dr. Pittermann, and three local Socialists, including Dr. Kunst, the expert on South Tyrol. Representatives of the South Tyrolean Socialist Party also attended.
- To the surprise of the Austrians, the fullest agreement was reached on the opeants? question. The main points of this agreement were the following:
  - a) The Hitler-Mussolini Agreement should be declared rull and void;
  - b) No distinction should be made between the various categories of optants (those who remained in South Tyrol, those who left it, those who received German nationality papers, those who did not);
  - e) Optants who had not left South Tyrol should submit a declaration to their local mayor, stating that they wish to retain their Italian nationality; the declar tion should be presented within one month of the settlement coming into force;
  - d) Optants who had left South Tyrol should submit this declaration to the nearest Italian diplomatic representative within one year of the settlement coming into force, or to the local mayor within one week of returning to South Tyrol:
  - e) The Italian Covernment would have authority to refuse Italian nationality to certain heavily compromised optants (war-criminals, etc.), provided it gives notice of this intention within one month of the expiration of the time-limit for submitting the declaration

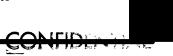
In such cases proper legal proceedings would be instituted before a mixed South Tyrolean and Italian Commission, headed by a senior judge. The prosecutor would be the public prosecutor in Bolzano, and the optant concerned would be given every chance to defend himself. The Italian Socialists further agreed that the South Tyroleans should be represented by a majority on this nexed 6 ammission, but for tactical reasons insisted that this concession should for the time being be kept strictly secret.

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- Durzetto stated that the Italian Communists and the Saragat Socialists would consent to the above agreement, and that he was consequently convinced that a majority favoring it could be found in the present Parliament in Rome.
- 4. Before deciding on the necessary tactics with which to ensure the adoption of a sattlement along the above lines, Luzzatto stated that Neumi wished to discuss the question with the leaders of the other parties.
- 5. It was agreed to postpone any formal discussion of the autonomy question to a later date. Nevertheless, Luzzatto stated that the Nenni Socialists favored a provincial, rather than a regional, autonomy. As, however, all the other Italian parties favored a regional autonomy, they would probably withdraw their opposition to a regional autonomy, provided proper provision was made to guarantee the South Tyroleans' ethnical rights as formulated by the South Tyroleans themselves. According to Luzzatto, the Christian Democrats would advance a proposal denying the Trentiners any form of autonomy, if the South Tyroleans insisted on a provincial autonomy.

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